

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the second full paragraph on page 3 of the specification, with the following amended paragraph:

The biomass from which the growth medium or substrate is prepared is preferably biomass generated from at least one species of methanotrophic bacteria and at least one species of heterotrophic bacteria, preferably grown in the same culture medium, e.g. using a loop reactor provided with methane, oxygen, ammonia, and mineral feeds. Suitable combinations of bacteria for generating the biomass are described for example in WO 01/60974 the contents of which are incorporated by reference. One particularly suitable combination is *Methylococcus capsulatus* (Bath) (strain NCIMB ~~41324~~1526), *Ralstonia* sp. DB3 (strain NCIMB ~~43287~~41527), *Aneurinibacillus* sp. DB4 (strain NCIMB ~~43288~~41528) and *Brevibacillus agri* DB5 (strain NCIMB ~~43289~~41525) ~~(each of these microorganisms is available from Norferm DA, Norway for the lifetime of the patent).~~ Each strain was deposited at the National Collection of Industrial and Marine Bacteria Ltd. (NCIMB Ltd.), located at Ferguson Building, Craibstone Estate, Bucksburn, Aberdeen, AB21 9YA, Scotland, UNITED KINGDOM, on December 4, 2007.

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 5 and 6 of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

Methanotrophic and heterotrophic bacteria (*Methylococcus capsulatus* (Bath) (strain NCIMB ~~41324~~1526) *Ralstonia* sp. DB3 (strain NCIMB ~~43287~~41527), *Aneurinibacillus* sp. DB4 (strain NCIMB ~~43288~~41528) and *Brevibacillus agri* DB5 (strain NCIMB ~~43289~~41525), ~~each available from Norferm DA, Norway)~~ were cultivated as described in WO01/60974 and the resulting biomass harvested and treated as described in WO01/60974 to produce spray-dried homogenizate (hereinafter "BP Homogenizate"), as described in International Patent Application No. PCT/GB03/000610 to produce spray-dried hydrolysate (hereinafter "BP Hydrolysate"), and as described in International Patent Application No. PCT/GB03/000640 (see e.g. Example 1) to produce an autolysate (hereinafter "BP Extract"). Where the post-autolysis ultrafiltration and evaporation steps in the production of "BP Extract" are omitted, the product is referred to herein as "BP Autolysate". Preparation of such a product is described, for example, in Examples 3 and

4 of International Patent Application No. PCT/GB03/000640. The product referred to as "BP Retentate" is an ultra-high-temperature treated biomass that was homogenized. The product referred to as "BP Permeate" corresponds essentially to the product of the ultrafiltration step in the production of "BP Extract".